United Nations S/2018/234

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 March 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 16 March 2018 from the representatives of France, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We, the undersigned members of the Security Council, are writing to express our profound concern about the lack of implementation of Security Council resolution 2401 (2018), namely, by the Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation, which was adopted unanimously by the Council on 24 February 2018.

The resolution demanded that all parties cease hostilities throughout Syria without delay, desist from attacks directed against civilians and enable the safe, unimpeded and sustained delivery of humanitarian aid and services and safe, unconditional medical evacuations. On 12 March, the Secretary-General briefed the Council on the implementation of resolution 2401 (2018), and despite the unanimous Council support for the resolution, he reported that "we see egregious violations, indiscriminate attacks and a failure to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure". He also reported that the provision of humanitarian aid and services had not been safe, unimpeded or sustained, that such delivery of assistance had been impossible during the five-hour window declared by Russia, that there had been no lifting of sieges and that not one critically sick or wounded person had been evacuated by the 15-day mark. In short, he said that there had been no cessation of hostilities.

The Secretary-General noted that, particularly in eastern Ghutah, air strikes, shelling and ground offensives had intensified after the adoption of resolution 2401 (2018) and had claimed many hundreds of civilian lives. The Secretary-General reported that the Syrian authorities and their allies had intensified air strikes and launched a ground offensive after the adoption of resolution 2401 (2018) and that disturbing reports of chemical weapons use had continued. The Secretary-General reported that, as well as continuing their campaign of violence, the Syrian authorities had deliberately obstructed the delivery of humanitarian aid by removing nearly 70 per cent of medical items from the only convoy that had gained access to eastern Ghutah since the adoption of the resolution. The Secretary-General noted that the United Nations was still waiting for authorization to complete the delivery to Duma for all 70,000 people, initially approved by the Syrian authorities, and he emphasized that the delivery of all necessary humanitarian supplies, including the medical and health supplies previously removed, remained urgently needed and must be ensured without delay.

18-04262 (E) 210318

Please recycle

As States Members of the United Nations, we must all be dedicated to implementing Security Council resolutions. The Council must stand behind its resolutions and ensure that they have meaning; otherwise, we risk undermining the credibility of the international system. We urge all Members of the United Nations, in particular the Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation, as a permanent member of the Security Council, to fully meet the demands of resolution 2401 (2018), which, if implemented, could immediately save hundreds, if not thousands, of children, women and men who have suffered acutely during the past eight years of the brutal conflict in Syria.

If Member States do not implement the resolution, it is imperative that the Council immediately pursue decisive action to achieve a full cessation of hostilities throughout Syria, to facilitate humanitarian access and to protect the Syrian people.

We kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) François **Delattre**
Ambassador
France

(*Signed*) Mansour **Alotaibi**
Ambassador
Kuwait

(*Signed*) Karel **van Oosterom**
Ambassador
Kingdom of the Netherlands

(*Signed*) Francisco **Tenya**
Ambassador
Peru

(*Signed*) Joanna **Wronecka**
Ambassador
Poland

(*Signed*) Olof **Skoog**
Ambassador
Sweden

(*Signed*) Jonathan **Allen**
Ambassador
United Kingdom

(*Signed*) Nikki R. **Haley**
Ambassador
United States